The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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RUSSIAN WORKERS FAVOR WORLD PEACE

Washington, Oct. 12.—J. D. Baum, a Russian citizen, carrying a credential from the Russian workmen's and soldiers' delegate council, presented Frank Morrison, secretary of the American Federation of Labor, last week, that Russian workmen do not favor a separate peace with Germany, which would make impossible their longings for a world peace. He said that none could be no free Russia unless there was land reform and the estates taken from the old regime were land owners or sons of land owners.

He denied that the Germans captured Riga through the cowardice of the Russian army, which he said, resisted the Germans for two weeks when it retired before a superior force.

"Korniloff's recent uprising against Kerensky," he said, "was supported by monarchists, although I do not know if Kornilloff is a monarchist.

"Kerensky is a comparatively young man and not able. He is a lawyer and much of his popularity is due to the fact that he was a great defender of the poor and oppressed at Petrograd. It is a mistake to assume that the army is not loyal, as it is a strong willed man and before the revolution some of his closest supporters were officers of reserves that the upheaval might be checked. The czar declined to flee even in the face of the growing tide of republicanism."

$5 A DAY IS NOT HIGH WAGE.

Los Angeles, Cal., Oct. 12.—Organized carpenters and employers have accepted a wage agreement providing for mechanics at $5 a day for eight hours, overtime at the rate of time and one-half, and double time on Sundays, Fourth of July, Labor day and Christmas.

A five-year rule for building craftsmen is not excessive, according to the mediators, who say:

"We contend that the foregoing as a fair basis of settlement, first, because of the indisputable increased cost of living. A year ago last March, a survey by Prof. Jaffa, of the University of California, he points out that in 1916 the cost of living for a wage earner with a wife and three children was $37.75 per month, with a corresponding cost for 1917 is $72.50 per month.

"We recommend the foregoing for the further reason that the raise of $5 per day means an average earning of only $1,000 per year, due to the fact that the average carpenter has only employment, as a rule, during only about 200 days a year, out of 300 possible working days. This $1,000 per year, less an average cost for tools of $50 per year, plus an average cost for transportation of tools per year of $10, leaves the carpenter an average earning for the year of $940, which is equivalent to about $78 per month. This leaves the carpenter above the line of living in the city of Los Angeles, according to Prof. Jaffa, the cost of clothing, amusements, periodicals, medical attendance and the other incidentals necessary to decent living in a civilized community."

BIG TAX LAW IN EFFECT.

Washington, Oct. 13.—The war revenue bill, designed to raise two and a half billion dollars, was signed by President Wilson last week and is now in effect. In the form of levies on incomes, excess profits, luxuries, tobacco, transportation, various luxuries and amusements, the law, directly or indirectly, affects every one. Letter postage is increased to 3 cents 20 days after the bill becomes a law and the price of postal cards will be raised to 2 cents. Increased postal rates on second-class matter become effective on July 1 next year. Taxes are not increased on tea, coffee or sugar, but taxes upon many articles of common use—perfume, jewelry, playing cards, chewing gum, films, pills, powders, etc.—are effective at once. Taxes on freight, express, passenger fares, sleeping car accommodations and new life and fire insurance policies, start the first of next month, as does a tax of 5 cents on messages and telephone messages, which cost more than 15 cents each.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS GAIN.

Kewanee, Ill., Oct. 13.—The Consolidated Light and Power company has accepted a new wage agreement of the Electrical Workers' union. The work day is reduced one hour and wages are increased $13.50 a month.

Scranton, Pa., Oct. 12.—An agreement between the Electrical Workers' union No. 81 and the Scranton Railway company became operative the first of the month. Foremen will be paid $4.50 a day and time men $4, with time and one-half for overtime and double time for holidays.

Artiicleville, Okla., Oct. 13.—Contractors at this place have signed a union shop agreement with their bricklayers' union, which has also increased 10 cents an hour for eight hours a day.

JEWELERS BREAK LINES.

Newark, N. J., Oct. 13.—The Jewelry Workers' union has secured an agreement with the Krementz Jewelry company, one of the firms that locked out 650 union employees last month. The agreement will be signed today after Mayor Raymond's offer to act as mediator, but assure the official that the action of the manufacturers on September 17, that their employes must never connection with the Jewelry Workers' union, has been given a wrong interpretation.

The unionists say that loyalty to their organization caused the employers to attempt to shift the blame for present conditions.

PLUMBERS RAISE WAGES.

Belleville, Ill., Oct. 12.—After a one-day's strike, the Plumbers and Steamfitters' union secured a raise of $1 per day. Former rates were $5 for plumbers and $5.50 for steamfitters.

Fort Arthur, Tex., Oct. 12. — Organized plumbers have signed a scale in Beaumont have secured a new agreement after a week's strike. Wages are the same as before, $5 a day, with double time for Sundays and holidays.

TRY TO REDUCE WAGES.

Lorain, Ohio, Oct. 12.—Members of the Stove Mounters' union employed by the National Stove company, a branch of the American Stove company, suspended work rather than accept a 5 per cent wage reduction. These workers now ask a 20 per cent increase on piece work and a day-work minimum of $3.50.

TRADE UNIONISM PAYS.

Tacoma, Wash., Oct. 12.—Last year organized stationary engineers in this city worked 24 hours a day. They have organized since that time and are now working eight hours a day and have increased wages.

NAVY YARD WORKERS MAKE BIG WAGE GAIN

Washington, Oct. 13. — President O'Connell of the A. F. of L. metal trades department says last week's advance in wages for navy yard workers is the first time the government dealt directly with trade union representatives, instead of referring the dispute to boards and commissions, which would spend months in investigations.

Navy yard workers objected to recently announced wage schedules and the metal trades department secured a conference with the war and navy departments, which was attended by President O'Connell and Secretary-Treasurer Berres of the metal trades department and the following presidents of international unions: Messrs. Valentine, iron molders; Alpine, plumbers; Johnston, machinists; Wilson, pattern makers; Hynes, sheet metal workers; Franklin, boiler makers; Kline, blacksmiths; Snellings, stationary engineers; McNulty, electrical workers; Duncan, metal polishers, and Hutcheson, carpenters.

After a three days' conference it was agreed to abolish the numerous grades of wages and to have but four grades and set a standard rate for each. Workers receiving less than the new rate have their pay increased to reach the standard. This basic increase is $1.08 a day in some cases and a general increase of $1 a day.

The new rates were standardized the war and navy departments' representatives agreeing that a general wage increase of 40 cents a day for all mechanical and workmen's helper group. This includes all skilled craftsmen and their helpers along the Atlantic seaboard from Boston to Newport, R. I., $4.80; Philadelphia, Washington, Norfolk, New Orleans and all points south, $4.72.

Second-class mechanics—42 cents a day less than the first-class rate in the respective yards.

Third-class mechanics—$1.04 a day less than the first-class rate in the respective yards.

These wage increases will affect about 100,000 workers who will secure approximately $50,000 a day additional.

The conference also created a board consisting of a representative of the navy department, the naval construction department and a neutral which will adjust grievances during the year and will consider any abnormal increase in living costs to justify further wage increases. President O'Connell has been selected as the metal trades representative.

PAY WOMEN MEN'S WAGES.

Thermopolis, Wyo., Oct. 12. — Pay women men's wages whereever they do men's work summarizes one section that was adopted by the Wyoming president of the Wyoming state federation of women's clubs, to the annual convention.

"Women who are replacing men called to the colors are also entitled to receive equal pay for equal work, not only because that would be just, but because otherwise there is no incentive for the man returning after the war would receive their former employment, and the women would be thrown out of employment."

Mrs. Morton opposed lowering the standard of living as a result of the continuance of social reforms during the war period, said:

"Can you realize the appeal of a hungry child easier now? Does war justify the labor of little children who must come after the war to the task of reconstruction? Do not our schools need our support just as much as before our laws are perfect that they cannot be improved? For 50 years the best thought of our land has urged individual effort for higher standards of health, better schools, better industrial conditions. We cannot afford to relax our vigilance for a moment, for upon the efficiency of the civilian corps depends the success of our army and navy abroad."

NEW WORK DISCOURAGED.

Washington, Oct. 13.—Secretary of War Baker, in his capacity as chairman of the council of national defense, has written an inquiry that the council does not favor new enterprises which are not fundamental to the efficient operation of the country's necessary war activities.

"Every effort that this country is capable of making must be applied to bring the war to a speedy and successful conclusion," he says. "The resources of the country in general way, may be said to consist of men, money and material and during the period of the war any new enterprise or undertaking should be subject to the following test: Will the men, money and material so applied, best contribute in the way to the winning of the war."

FAVOR U. S. PRINT PAPER.

Washington, Oct. 13.—A report recommending government control of the print paper and pulp industries during the war, and arraigning the manufacturers of print paper industries, has been filed by the senate public lands committee.

The report says that the federal trade commission's findings "show beyond any question a combining of paper industry, in its greed for excessive profits, has imposed a most unjust burden on the whole people, which faces a serious disaster if relief measures cannot be had from the oppressive prices now exacted."

BITTER CAR STRIKE ENDS.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Oct. 13.—The "Hang Limit" Chattanooga Railway and Light company announced it was waging against Street Car Men's union No. 713 has ended. All strike breakers are dismissed, all former employes reinstated, and arbitration of wage questions, hours, working conditions, etc. The strike has been an especially bitter one, but the men's striking qualities triumphed.

BERRES A CONCILIATOR.

Washington, Oct. 13.—The federal shipping board has appointed Secretary-Treasurer Berres of the A. F. of L. metal trades department one of those authorized to go to the Pacific coast and endeavor to adjust labor controversies which exist in Seattle, Portland and San Francisco.

RUBBER WORKERS UNIONIZING.

Akron, O., Oct. 13.—The central labor union has appointed a committee to assist the thousands of rubber workers in this city to organize. The committee are charged with maintaining a fair and blacklist system.

DAILY WAGE RAISED.

Cincinnati, Oct. 12.—Bakers' union No. 233 has raised a union shop agreement with the Voss Grocery company. Wages are increased and working conditions improved.

CAPITAL CAR STRIKE BLAMED ON COMPANY

Washington, Oct. 12.—A special committee appointed by the United States senate to investigate last spring's strike against the Washington Railway and Electric company has reported that the company is to blame for the strike, the company's president, Clarence P. King, is scathingly rebuked.

The committee consisted of Senators Hughes, Pittman, King, Jones of Washington, and Johnson of California. The former introduced the motion creating the committee but was unable to attend any of the hearings because of illness.

The committee is unanimous in condemning the company and its attempt to foist individual contracts on employes in this age of organization.

Prior to the inauguration of President Wilson, Mark Hanna and others asked President King to open negotiations for the purpose of increasing wages. King declined but consented to postponed until after the inauguration, "this time," says the committee, "was a plainly evasive and intentional to tide over the period of the inauguration in order to be free to work out the hope of honest negotiations, when, as a matter of fact, Mr. King had no intention individually to deal unless under any circumstances with the representatives of the union."

The committee is decidedly inclined to act upon any bias other than the individual contract which he had prearranged in anticipation of the state of affairs which came to pass.

"Mr. King was one of the two courses for the men to follow, either quit work or take employment under a contract that left each individual to deal singly with the corporate power individual capital."

U. S. BOND EXPLAINED.

Washington, Oct. 12.—The Official Bulletin, issued by the government's committee on public information, prints this explanation of coupon and registered bonds:

Coupon bond is a bond in a promise to pay. A person buys a bond; that is, he lends his money to an organization that issues it and receives a printed paper receipt called a bond. A part of this bond bears the terms of the loan. It states that $50, $100, $500, $1,000 or more has been borrowed from the holder of the bond for a stated period of years at a certain rate of interest, this interest to be paid on dates stated in the bond. The interest is usually paid twice a year. Attached to the bond are the coupons. These represent the interest. Beginning with the first date on which interest is due, there is a coupon for the amount of money to be paid. If the bond was issued June 15, 1917, for $100, for 10 years at 4 per cent, it would state that on December 15, 1917, $1.75 would be paid to the bearer. On that date it will be presented or cashed at any bank.

The bank that registered the owner receives a receipt for his money, the bond is held by the organization issued it and the interest is paid to the owner by check. Coupon bonds are payable to bearer and should be safe kept. Registered bonds protect the owner against the acts of others. The registering of a bond relieves the owner of the responsibility of taking care of it, though he must take care of his receipt."

STATE INSURANCE GROWS.

Harrisburg, Pa., Oct. 12.—The annual report of the state workmen's insurance fund, showing the rapid growth which has attracted attention when this legislation was being considered. The fund now has a surplus of $1,000,000, one of the fund for 1916, including interest, was $946,000 and the statement is made that this year it will be $1,250,000.

The report gives the expenses for the year as $138,125.34, or 17.6 per cent of the annual premium income of the fund.

The statement of claims shows 111 claims last year and that compensation is being paid to dependents of accidents, 27 widows and 83 orphan children. A dividend of 10 per cent was paid to a group of coal mine risks and 15 per cent to all other risks, and the fund has paid orders for the first year being $93,162.04.

The reserve at the end of the year is the sum of $672,703.05, including $61,-940.54 reserve for catastrophe.

CAR MEN WANT MORE.

Boston, Oct. 13.—The Street Car Men's Union has filed with the Boston Elevated Railway company for a conference to discuss wage increases, the present scale of the union's agreement and wage increases. The union has an agreement which does not expire until May 1, 1918.

"It is not the intention of the officers of the union to break this contract," it is stated, "but a conference is desired in the hope that a fresh discussion of conditions that have arisen since the agreement was entered, largely due to the world war, will bring satisfactory results."

WIN 18-YEARS' FIGHT.

Indianapolis, Oct. 13.—Officers of the United Mine Workers announce that the miners of eastern Kentucky and Tennessee have won their 18-year fight for collective bargaining. A strike was declared August 11 and 22,000 men suspended work. Eight operators signed the agreement to belong to the union, wage increase, checkweighmen and an arbitration board that will settle all cases of shorter hours.

The victory is the most important the United Mine Workers ever secured south of the Ohio river.

CARPENTERS RAISE WAGES.

Port Arthur, Tex., Oct. 13.—An arbitration board has raised wages of organized carpenters. Beginning the 15th of this month they will be paid a day until the first of the year, when $6 will be paid.

Lake Charles, La., Oct. 12.—A short strike of carpenters employed on the government camp construction here forced contractors to increase wages.

TO DISTRIBUTE LABOR.

Washington, Oct. 12.—Congress voted $250,000 to enable Secretary of Labor Wilson to furnish such information and to render such assistance in the distribution of labor as may be found necessary in the prosecution of the war. This legislation was strongly urged by the American Federation of Labor.

BAKERS GAIN ANOTHER.

Cincinnati, Oct. 12.—Bakers' union No. 233 has signed a union shop agreement with the Voss Grocery company. Wages are increased and working conditions improved.

FRAMERS-UP FORCED OXMAN'S ACQUITTAL

San Francisco, Oct. 12.—The acquittal of Frank C. Oxman on perjury charges in connection with the conviction of Thomas J. Mooney did not surprise close observers of this trial.

The San Francisco Bulletin openly charged that Oxman would be acquitted to save him from "squealing," and in its last issue before the jury's verdict was announced the paper said:

"Every nightfall Frank C. Oxman, the 'honest' cattleman, is expected to walk out of Superior Judge Frank Dunne's court room in the 'hall of frame' a free man. The court's insults, hurled at the state's witnesses, his failure at any one time to remember anything that the probity of the maverick-identifier might possibly be open to question, and the liberties with which he provided ways and means for Fickert and Cunha to influence the jury which is trying their fellow conspirator for a crime of which they, too, have been accomplices—attempting to railroad a man to the gallows on perjured testimony—has proved amazing even to the oldest hands behind the scenes in this age of organization.

"This is far from all. Information has been brought into the office of Captain of Detectives Duncan Matheson and there declared:

"'This is a d— fine way to treat a man who has done all he has for others, who will go, too. The ships will fall where they may.'

"This is the motive for the farce being staged in Superior Judge Dunne's court. The actions of Cunha after their successful conspiracy against Mooney, had to continue the pretense of Fickert to save Oxman's life. Fickert and Cunha, in fighting for the liberty of Oxman, are fighting to save themselves. That recalls his threat:

"'If I get jammed, others will go, too.'

"Cunha expressed this fear of himself in open court. He asserted to an officer in court: 'If this old gun is convicted we'll all be in the soup can.'"

FOOD SOARS IN ONE YEAR.

Washington, Oct. 12.—A pronounced reduction in the price of flour and potatoes marked the July crop production in food prices from June 15 to July 15, reports the federal bureau of crop statistics, but in the year from July 15, 1916, to July 15, 1917, the cost of food products has advanced 22 per cent. Onions was the only article which was lower. Flour was 3 cents a pound higher in July. Potatoes were 83 per cent higher in July, 1917, than in the same month last year. Rice was 27 per cent higher, 31 per cent higher, and beans 67 per cent higher. Of meats, pork advanced 22 per cent.

Comparing prices on July 15, 1914, and July 15, 1917, food as a whole advanced 42 per cent. In July, 1916, the rise was 20 per cent, showing that in two and one-fourth times the price in July, 1914. Corn meal was 59 per cent higher, wheat 72 per cent higher, sugar 75 per cent higher and potatoes and bread each 99 per cent higher.

POSTAGE IS INCREASED.

Washington, Oct. 12.—The war revenue bill, which was signed last week and the post office department has issued the following instructions:

"Countries which have joined after November 2, see that postage is paid at the rate of 2 cents an ounce or fraction thereof on letters and other first-class matter except drop letters. In the case of drop letters for delivery from the office at which posted, including those for delivery by city or rural carrier from such office, are required to have postage paid on them at the rate of 2 cents per ounce or fraction thereof. Postal cards are required to be prepaid 2 cents each, therefore, the one-cent postal cards must have a one-cent postage stamp affixed to them in addition to one-cent stamp impressed on such cards. Post cards (private mailing cards) bearing written messages must have 2 cents postage prepaid on them."

CART BEFORE THE HORSE.

New York, Oct. 12.—To provide nourishment for the thousands of underfed school children in this city, Health Commissioner Haven Emerson, in addition of the poor announces that it will establish a lunch room service in the public schools.

A trade unionist suggests that the association has the cart before the horse. First of all, should provide for a living wage that fathers could feed their children.

But, of course, this would never do. The professional charity industry must be protected.

CONTROL ARIZONA PRESS.

Sacramento, Cal., Oct. 12.—At the annual convention of the California Federation of Labor, which opens Monday, president of the Arizona state federation of labor, declared that the publishers of nearly all of Arizona's 11 of the 12 daily newspapers in that state and control the other. He says all are reporters going out of Arizona practically are dictated by the copper kings and that the news is garbled.

MINES ON HALF TIME.

Bismarck, N. D., Oct. 12.—Ora Garland, state fuel administrator, operator asks the North Dakota railroad commission to cooperate in securing an increase in rates on Wyoming coal. He says mines in his state are operating on half time because of high freight rates for the delivery of their product. These fields, he says, will be able to supply a large amount of coal if equitable freight rates are secured.

TAILORS WIN STRIKE.

Washington, Oct. 12.—After a short strike proprietors of military tailor shops have signed a union shop agreement with the Journeymen Tailors' union. Wages are increased. The usual talk of the shops moving from this city was heard, but when it was discovered the strikers were not alarmed an agreement was reached.

UNION CAN STATE FACTS.

Little Rock, Ark., Oct. 12.—A nonunion barber shop proprietor has failed to secure an injunction restraining pickets from carrying a banner reading: "This shop is unfair to union labor." The court held that unionists have the right to state facts.

POSTAL CLERKS WORK REGARDLESS OF HOURS

Washington, Oct. 12.—Those people who think that why government employes persist in joining trade unions are answered by this utterance of Letter Carriers' Journal, the official organ of the Washington Herald, under the caption "Be Square with Postal Clerks:"

"There is an evil existing in one of the departments of our government which works an injustice bordering on thousands of employes throughout the country. It lies in the postoffice department, in the mail service branch.

"By the terms of his appointment a clerk in the postal service is required to work eight hours a day. This is time actually put in on the distribution of mail and other duties. But the work of a postal clerk does not stop here.

"He is required to learn what is known as a 'scheme.' This means that he must learn the name of every postoffice in a given state or sometimes in two states. He must also learn the name of every postoffice on all mail trains that visit these various postoffices.

"According to the postoffice clerk he was required to study three hours a day for three months before being finally examined by a board to pass his examination. His estimate of the time necessary to learn the fact that in one state (Pennsylvania) there are about 4,800 postoffices. The examination questions him to know every one of these.

"From his testimony it will be seen that after working eight or more hours a day he must put in three more hours in study. And his study must continually be kept up by constantly changing, and learning them anew. Failure to pass the required to take examination twice a year in order to keep familiar with the state he is assigned to learn.

"There is no reason why the time necessary for learning a scheme should not be considered a part of the given time off for studying. When the government contracts with a man to work eight hours a day it oversteps the bounds when it forces him to work 10 or 11 hours without extra remuneration.

"The pay of these men is so pitifully small in comparison to the work they do that a concession as to time should be made to them at once."

WOULD LESSEN STRIKES.

Boston, Oct. 12.—Gov. McCall has authorized the state board of conciliation and arbitration to confer with the secretary of labor at Washington with a view to establishing a better understanding and dealing with industrial disputes in this state.

There has not been any settled cooperation between the two departments, and it has resulted in some embarrassment. The statute provides that the state board may be called in to bring about a settlement of any strike or threatened strike involving 25 or more employes.

If the parties fail to agree, the statute provides that the board shall endeavor to persuade them to submit the questions in dispute to arbitration. If the parties refuse to do this and have personally failed to agree, the board is then authorized to make an investigation to ascertain the cause of the controversy and the party most responsible for its existence or continuance.

It sometimes happens that the board proceeds in a case only to discover that a representative of the department at Washington is dealing with it, while the board's conciliator also has been unaware of the efforts made by the state board.

EMPLOYERS WOULD CONFUSE.

Kansas City, Mo., Oct. 13.—The Business Men's association is "educating the public" by means of boycotts. In the daily press lauding nonunionism, which it calls the "open shop." Trade unionists reply that the reverse is the fact of the matter. Under the open shop workers, who are compelled to accept low wages and poor working conditions and then joined the trade union movement. Laundry workers were the latest victims of the suspended work, as were freight clerks and freight handlers. The reason is true at the soap factories of Peet Bros. and Proctor & Gamble and at the Kansas City Star and Times company. In each of these cases strikes were caused by low wages. Now the Business Men's association blames unionism instead of acting like sensible folk and removing the cause of their trouble.

THREE UNIONS BENFIT.

Tacoma, Wash., Oct. 12.—Joint action by the city council and building workers, laundry drivers and stationary engineers employed in laundries has resulted in the signing of a union agreement and wage increases. The old plan of hiring laundry workers by the week or month is replaced by a work week of not less than five and not more than six days.

The engineers secure a 54-hour week and a wage of $115 a month and the laundry drivers $15 a week and a percentage on business secured.

EMPLOYERS NOW SORRY.

Dayton, Ohio, Oct. 13.—Employing barbers to break the union, it is now heard that the Barbers' union had surrendered its charter a few weeks ago. The barbers refused to take a cut to raise wages over $13 a week. Now the employers are whistling a different tune because their workers are leaving the city. As a result, wages are being raised and there is talk of reorganizing the union with the employers helping in place this business on a paying basis.

TEXTILE STRIKE ENDS.

Hoosick Falls, N. Y., Oct. 12.—A two-day strike of employes of Imperial Manufacturing company has ended with an almost complete victory for the strikers. The business agent agrees to dismiss an objectionable foreman, raise wages and conduct the plant on a union basis. A conference is made to adjust future disputes.

$2 A MONTH INCREASE.

Richmond, Va., Oct. 13.—Members of Teamsters' union No. 538 employed by the Richmond dairy, have secured a wage increase of $2 a month.

St. Paul, Minn., Oct. 12.—The Milk Wagon Drivers' union has won its first contest with employers. Wages are increased.

WAITERS WINNING.

Little Rock, Ark., Oct. 12.—Organized cooks and waiters have secured union shop agreements with 40 restaurants, and are waging a vigorous campaign against the 10 concerns composing the Restaurant Owners' association.

SENATORS DENOUNCE INDIVIDUAL CONTRACT

Washington, Oct. 12. — "Individual contracts," the latest scheme of antiunion employers to resist collective bargaining, were denounced, denounced, and its fallacy exposed, by a special committee appointed by the United States senate to investigate the strike of street car men, last spring, against the Washington Railway and Electric company.

The committee, consisting of Senators Hughes, Pittman, King, Jones of Washington and Johnson of California, agree that the company is responsible for the strike. In separate reports the senators take sharp issue with the company's methods and its defense of individual contracts.

Senator Pittman said:

"The impossibility of the individual negotiating a contract of employment with a powerful corporation is too absurd for intelligent men to discuss before an intelligent body. The very object of the individual contract, in fact, the chief object, is to avoid discussion and consideration. Influence, power and accomplishment in every activity of life is accomplished through collective action. In my humble opinion, collective bargaining on the part of the employes is a principle that must be recognized. This obligation upon the part of public utilities corporations is imperative. They have no moral right to use their power and privileges in a manner oppressive to the citizens or obstructive to the peace and happiness of the public."

Senators Jones and Johnson said:

"By individual agreements employes are left at the mercy of corporation. There is nothing of fairness in the closely knit, powerful corporations, on the one hand, and the single worker, an individual employed by it on the other. The employer is so potent, so well organized, has such tremendous power and such extraordinary power of reserve, that the individual, among the thousands of employes, must, perforce, if dealing alone with the employer, be substantially upon the employer's terms.

"Collective bargaining is inherent in modern industrial life. It is open to all parties. The isolated worker has neither the opportunity nor the capacity for successful bargaining, but all the workers together approaching by organization, with the power and concentration of power that exists in the industry, may thus, by collective bargaining, deal on equal terms. Justice, if, in individual bargaining, the employer is obdurate, the single worker can not deal at all must of necessity yield. In collective bargaining all the workers standing together make the struggle more equal. That collective bargaining has brought tremendous benefits to the employe does not longer admit of doubt."

MINERS RAISE WAGES.

Washington, Oct. 12.—A two-weeks' war wage advance has been granted coal miners and operators in the central competitive field, it was broken when the miners were increased 10 cents a ton for pick work, $1.45 a day for machine men and 38 cents a day increase for yardage and dead work. The miners' original demands were 20 cents, $1.60 a day, and 38 per cent respectively.

The wages in the coal-weighing Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois—are taken by the coal trade as the basis for wages in the country, it probable that all soft coal miners throughout the country will receive the same increase.

The miners have a contract with the central field operators, but the workers insisted that the war emergment was signed present living costs were on the basis of the miners' clinching argument, however, was their proof that workers are leaving the mines for higher wages in munitions and other activities because of higher wages. The operators agreed with the miners in the latters' presentation of facts.

FORM TRIPLE ALLIANCE.

Sacramento, Cal., Oct. 12.—California trade unionists, farmers, and cooperators have perfected machinery for joint action in urging national legislation before the state assembly.

This alliance was formed at the annual convention of the state federation of labor, which was addressed by representatives of the Farmers' Educational and Co-operative union and the Pacific Co-operative league. On motion of Secretary-Treasurer Kornberg the convention appointed a committee to meet with the farmers' and co-operators. Then the plan of alliance was launched. Each organization will appoint five representatives, who, together with the presidents and secretaries of each body shall form a permanent committee of fifteen.

PEOPLE OBEYED AT LAST.

Detroit, Mich., Oct. 12.—Eighteen months ago Mrs. Ella Boole, who wrote into their city charter a minimum wage and eight-hour section, which was ignored by the council, and have succeeded in blocking the passage of city ordinances that would make effective this declaration, but trade union agitation has triumphed and the ordinance has been adopted, to take effect immediately, no unskilled municipal employe shall hereafter receive less than $3 a day. Wages of skilled mechanics shall receive the prevailing rate of wages in the particular grade of work. The eight-hour day is obligatory.

VAST SUMS VOTED.

Washington, Oct. 12.—In round numbers appropriations and contract authorizations by congress to date are $21,000,000,000. Of this amount $7,240,000,000 is to be expended by the United States. The special session of the sixth-fifth congress, which adjourned last Saturday, voted nearly $17,000,000,000 of the grand total appropriated.

CITY TO SELL POTATOES.

Chicago, Oct. 12.—The city council has appointed a board to which the city will sell potatoes at cost price. The city will be guaranteed the return of the money in nine months, plus 5 per cent. The board is expected to sell potatoes to consumers at around $1.25. It is intended to sell the potatoes at 85 cents a bushel.

FOR CHRISTMAS MAIL.

Washington, Oct. 12.—Postmaster General Burleson notifies the public that Christmas packages intended for the soldiers in France must be mailed not later than November 15.

ONE IN FIVE ACCEPTED.

Harrisburg, Pa., Oct. 13.—Reports from district draft boards in this state show that acceptances of soldiers to date average one in every five called for examination.

ORGANIZES UNION; ACTS AS ARBITER.

New Orleans, Oct. 13.—Organizing a union which conducted a successful strike and then selected as neutral member of an arbitration board is the unique experience of A. F. of L. Organizer James Leonard.

The workers are employed in a syrup factory, at Marrero. After they were organized by Leonard they suspended work to enforce better conditions, and in a few days secured a complete victory, including recognition of their union. On the wage question it was agreed that the union's representative and the superintendent adjust rates to the standard prevailing in similar plants in that locality.

In case of a disagreement between these two it was agreed that the man who organized the union should make the final award.

A. F. OF L. EXECUTIVE IN YEAR 1895 IS KILLED

Globe, Ariz., Oct. 12.—John McBride, president of the A. F. of L. in 1895 and former president of the United Mine Workers, died as the result of injuries received when he was struck by a runaway horse. Deceased was 61 years old and at the time of his death was acting as a federal department of labor mediator. He was an Ohio man and served as state labor commissioner there, and in the Ohio legislature. He was defeated in Arizona for the past several years.

Deceased was elected president of the A. F. of L. at its Denver convention in 1894, and was the only person who ever broke Samuel Gompers' successive elections as president of that organization.

COURT WOULD STOP STRIKE.

Atlanta, Ga., Oct. 12.—Next month the state supreme court will hear arguments for the dissolution of a permanent injunction issued by the superior court of Decatur county, this state, against officers of the four railroad brotherhoods who have been debarred from talking or assisting in any way employes of the Georgia, Florida and Alabama railroad, who attempted, last summer, to secure the reinstatement of a discharged engineer and to revise schedules in conformity with the Adamson eight-hour law.

The dispute is now in the hands of the federal board of mediation, which was injected by the railroad company. When the workers arranged for a joint vote they were enjoined from taking part in the strike by the court agreed that the men could quit work individually. The workers acted accordingly.

When the court realized it was defeated in its efforts to break the strike the men were enjoined from speaking to the present employes, former employes or to their kith and kin. Officers of the four brotherhoods were ordered not to render any financial assistance to the strikers. To make sure that the officers obeyed this order the court ordered that all checks before him and present all checks and written evidence of moneys paid, with copies of all letters, telegrams and communications.

JUSTICE FOR DOCK MEN.

Washington, Oct. 13—Congress has passed the Johnson-Gard bill which corrects an injustice to dock workers as the result of a decision by the United States supreme court which placed longshoremen under maritime instead of workmen's and not under the operation of state compensation laws.

The bill extends the jurisdiction of federal district courts so that a claimant's rights for compensation may be protected under any state compensation law.

Under the supreme court's decision thousands of workers had no recourse for the prompt payment of benefits in case of injury and work of which applied to depend upon the slow and uncertain methods of court trial to secure indemnities.

DEDUCT WAGE OF DRAFTED.

Anderson, Ind., Oct. 13.—At the conference of the Indiana state federation of labor officers were instructed to take up with the state council of defense the law which deducts the wages of drafted men by Terre Haute coal operators.

The union ordered to report before pay day, and when they asked their wages due they were told they were coming. The transaction reinsured the operators for their Red Cross contributions.

GUNS FOR COSSACKS.

Denver, Oct. 12.—The state department of safety is advertising for bids to arm Cossacks with a rifle and a saber each troop, which will be equipped to fight Bolsheviki and soldiers in France. The list includes:

Three hundred carbines and 60,000 cartridges, 300 sabers, 300 revolvers and 120,000 smokeless powder cartridges, 300 holsters, 300 belts and 30 bugles.

JOHN MITCHELL, FOOD BOSS.

Albany, N. Y., Oct. 12.—John Mitchell has been unanimously confirmed by the Iron and Steel Institute of America chairmanship of the state food production committee, to which he was nominated by Gov. Whitman and will retain his position as chairman of the state industrial commission.

MOLDERS WIN STRIKE.

Hoosick Falls, N. Y., Oct. 13.—Striking molders at the malleable and grey iron foundries of the Imperial Manufacturing company have returned to work. The ten-hour day is secured, wages are raised 10 per cent, the new scale to date. Close secured and shop committees will be recognized.

DOLLAR BUYS LESS.

Philadelphia, Oct. 12.—Teachers in this city are demanding higher wages. The high cost of living has reduced what they call the purchasing power of 40 cents two years ago.

PAPER MAKERS STRIKE.

Oswego, Tex., Oct. 12.—Employes of the Yellow Pine Paper Mill company suspended work to enforce a new wage scale and secure the reemployment of a victimized unionist.

ADJOURNED CONGRESS BREAKS ALL RECORDS

Washington, Oct. 13.—The first session of the Sixty-fifth congress has adjourned last Saturday, swung the ship of state away from many shoals, cleared many channels of accumulated political and financial records for an American legislative body.

The theory of "running your own business" has been mangled beyond recognition and the good old maxim, by, "confiscation," so successfully used in other days, is no longer in use as the president is empowered by many industry for the prosecution of the war, railroads are directed how to handle their business and sailing vessels are ordered to keep out of waters infested with submarines.

The food administration and conscription acts are included in the list of revolutionary legislation of this class. The former law permits the president to fix prices.

The espionage and the trading-with-the-enemy acts gives the postmaster general sweeping censorship powers and is more drastic than the measure favored by the administration at the beginning of the war and which was defeated as the result of popular protest. The latter law contains the clause provision that all news items, editorials and advertisements in foreign languages published must be submitted, in an English translation, to the postmaster at the office at which they are mailed.

The soldiers' and sailors' war insurance bill takes a step in the old pension theory and establishes fixed compensation rates for enlisted men and officers injured in the war and which is the initial legislation of this character. The government makes another unusual departure in the new law by providing insurance up to $10,000 for its enlisted men at a cost of $6 per thousand.

Another feature of revolutionary legislation is the civil rights' bill, which has been passed by the house but in the hands of the senate judiciary committee for action when congress convenes in December for the session on the first Monday in December. Under this bill a party seeing for money must first exhaust the courts. Defendant is not in the military service. If he is, the plaintiff can get service judgment unless the court makes a special order. Judgment by default is forbidden. Legislation is prohibited from evicting families or dependents of soldiers and life insurance in fraternal societies cannot be lapsed because of military service. This legislation promises to be warmly contested, even though it is favored by the administration, and law books are being ransacked for constitutional arguments by opponents.

PASS MILITARY INSURANCE.

Washington, Oct. 13.—President Wilson has signed the soldiers' and sailors' war insurance bill, which gives $10,000 insurance to enlisted men for $6 per thousand.

This legislation is unusual in that it provides for compensation not only to an enlisted men and his family or dependents, instead of the old system of paying the widow and orphans' pension after the expense of military service. This legislation promises to be warmly contested, even though it is favored by the administration, and law books are being ransacked for constitutional arguments by opponents.

GUARDS TERRORIZE STATE.

Charleston, W. Va., Oct. 12.—Baldwin-Felts detectives are being "planted" throughout this state by mine operators in an anti-union campaign. These thugs are spotted by sheriffs and made deputies or police deputy law, passed by the last legislature, despite protests by organized labor. Many of these thugs have been killed by these guards, and recently 60 of them stopped unionists, headed by Mary Jones, from holding an open meeting near Beckley. Striking miners have been evicted and when they have not moved fast enough the roofs of their cabins have been torn off, leaving women and children exposed to the elements. This reign of terror is the worst ever known in this state, while the operators cry "labor shortage."

MILL ACCIDENTS INCREASE.

Olympia, Wash. Oct. 13.—Organized lumber workers in this state are striking for an eight-hour day and solid camps are now being organized to operate with strikebreakers. This has resulted in increasing accidents. The state industrial insurance commission during August was 75 and the average for 19 days in September was 88.

WANT PHONE CO. PROBED.

Portland, Ore., Oct. 12.—The central labor council asks the state public service commission to investigate the business efforts and earnings of the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph company. This corporation has refused higher wages to its organized electrical workers because of "inadequacy of present revenue."

JOHN D.'S MINERS STRIKE.

Sopris, Col., Oct. 12.—About 300 miners employed by the Colorado Fuel and Iron company (Rockefeller interest) are on their strike and secured the reinstatement of a fellow worker who was discharged because the committeeman was an active member of the United Mine Workers union.

"NOTHING TO ARBITRATE."

St. Paul, Minn., Oct. 12.—The general manager of the Twin City Rapid Transit company has refused arbitration in the case of the 1,000 employes who struck when the union answered the arrogance with a strike order that tied up the system.

ORGANIZING WOMEN.

Sioux City, Iowa, Oct. 12.—The teamsters' union has secured the services of a woman organizer in the field to interest her sex in the benefits of trade unionism.

CIGARMAKERS GAIN.

Sioux City, Iowa, Oct. 12.—The Cigarmakers' union has secured a wage increase for the women hands of a cigar.